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NEWS BRIEFS

Central High School to close in 2001

NEWARK—Saying the plan is pretty much set, Newark Schools Superintendent Beverly Hall announced that Central High will close its doors in 2001 after almost 100 years.

The plan called for the school's closing to make way for two new facilities. A new Central High will be built at another location, and the current Central High will be refurbished and renamed Science High School. The 900 students now at the facility will be phased out, starting with this fall's incoming class.

Black teen suicide study alarming, yet misleading

WASHINGTON—Members of the African-American leadership network Project 21 reject a recent study on teen suicide that says African-American teens reside in up-to 10 times as many as white teens in the same city.

Project 21 Director Roderick Conrad said, "While many would, liberal and radical voices give credit the 'genocide' perpetrated by mainstream society, clearly the problem has always been an internal cultural suicide." Conrad said, "How can we really be shocked at these numbers when 'black-on-black crime'—often an extension of drug and gang-related activity—has been raging for years?"

Two doctors get licenses suspended for drug activity

NEWARK—The New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners has temporarily suspended the licenses of two Essex County doctors accused, among other things, of illegally distributing prescription drugs and defrauding the state's Medicaid program of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Dr. Jose Risio and Afrah Siddiqui, each named in separate administrative complaints, were ordered by the Board to immediately cease and desist from the practice of medicine after determining that their practice "constitutes a clear and imminent danger to the public health, safety and welfare."

NAACP demands greater equity in disaster relief efforts

BALTIMORE—NAACP President Benjamin M. Chavis Jr. urged federal officials and disaster relief agencies to assist all communities in their efforts to recover from the devastating tornadoes that recently ripped through Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Calling for relief agencies to become more sensitive to the need to diversify their disaster relief management and personnel in the field, especially in African-American communities, Chavis said that the federal government has complained of slow relief efforts from the federal government.

Mifune said.

New recreational facility in the Inboard

NEWARK—Essex County and Newark officials have designated space less than a mile from NJPAC for a new recreational facility.

Riverfront Park, scheduled to open next spring, will be situated along 2.2 acres along the Passaic River in the Inboard section of the city. The facility will include basketball and tennis courts, and in-line skating and hockey facilities and two regulation size soccer fields. "We heard the hype and cry that there was no room for the Inboard," said Mayor Sharpe James.

Auto insurance act hikes rates for urban dwellers

NEWARK—Assemblyman William D. Payne, 29th District, has announced opposition to the heavily debated auto insurance Cost Reduction Act (A-1970). Passed by The New Jersey General Assembly, "The so-called Auto Insurance Cost Reduction Act is intrinsically flawed and patently unfair to drivers in urban areas," said Payne, whose legislative district encompasses parts of Essex and Union counties, areas most adversely affected by the proposed end of territorial rate

cap. Under the premise that nine out of 10 drivers in New Jersey will benefit from lower insurance premiums across the State, The new bill garnered broad support from many New Jersey drivers primarily in suburban communities. Drivers in cities are furious. For the first time in 14 years, urban drivers could pay as much as 35 percent increase in insurance premiums, due to the proposed end of territorial rate

cap. "The provision which removes rate caps in insurance regions, is one that will be extremely onerous for urban drivers who are again being forced to subsidize their suburban counterparts," said Payne. "In addition, the re-drawing of insurance regions has not been completed. Not only is subjecting urban drivers to increased insurance cost premiums, it also places the burden upon those least able to afford it."

Before its final passing, bill A-1970 should address broader considerations. Without the rate caps that currently exist, insurance rates in urban areas will be much higher than those in Suburban areas. The facts are, suburban commuters drive into cities each day, increase the number of automobiles within urban centers. The irony of the situation is that insurance rates are based upon locations. Where the automobile is garaged, rather than where

the accident may occur. This makes the insurance cost disparity grossly advantageous to drivers in suburban areas. "The bill fails to address auto rates for good drivers," Payne said. "As it stands now, people who live in urban areas will not benefit from rate reduction, even if they are good drivers. Under the new auto insurance reform, we will be punishing New Jersey drivers simply because they live in urban areas."

Campaigning in the last days: the Newark mayoral election



Councilwoman Mildred Crump

By g.r. mattox

Two mayoral elections are just around the corner in Essex County, and as things are getting down to the wire, three running for the mayor's seat in Newark and Irvington are courting the voters with zeal and pounding away at their political assets.

In next week's issue of City News, the five way mayoral race in Irvington was examined. Although the field in Newark is smaller, the problems to be solved—and the progress that has been made is much larger. Three-term incumbent Sharpe James has the decided edge over opponents Ronald Rice and Mildred Crump because of the power of incumbency, and in terms of dollars raised and spent. Born and raised in what has become the Renaissance City, listening to James reminds you of those novels by Valerie Wilson Wesley, where the characters are infused with that particular "Newark attitude" and love for the city. He's also not too modest to take credit for the marked improvements in the city since he took office on May 7.

In an exclusive interview with City News Publisher, Dr. Henry Johnson, he discussed Newark's future and how, and where it is today.

"It's no secret that people were saying that Newark was the worst city in the nation," James said. "It was the city of the night when he took office.



Mayor Sharpe James

A fair campaign was going on by the police department, a \$30 million deficit, and public housing was on the "most troubled list," he said, ticking off the numerous ills of the city.

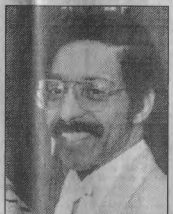
With "Let's Continue The Progress" as his campaign slogan, his personal motto is "Let the work I've done speak for me." This work includes the creation of 25,000 jobs, the reduction of crime, the reduction of property taxes, the hiring of more police and an economic boom initiated by the construction and rehabilitation of housing all over the city.

"The biggest job creation is through our economic development," the mayor said. "I've always led by example, development to the creation of jobs."

Education is another cause for both pride and concern for Sharpe James. "They've called Newark all kinds of names, but they haven't called us what we really are—and that is a college town," he said, noting that institutions like Essex County College, Seton Hall Law School, Rutgers and New Jersey Institute of Technology.

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State Senator Ron Rice

voiced opponents of the state takeover. Among the things James plans to do to increase the quality of education from the kindergarten to the Seniors in High School is to have half the school board elected and the other half appointed. Moving the school board elections to coincide with the municipal elections will also gain greater involvement from the community.

James is in the process of developing an education summit to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the present system, and come up with a meaningful action plan when the system is returned to the city. "The school system that educated Sharpe James, I want to believe that it can educate our children of today," he said.

Council Member-at-Large Mildred Crump says her campaign is about more than the election, it's about a mission and a grassroots movement. "Residents want to see more than just new buildings," she said. "They want a government that helps to rebuild lives. The 'lifeline' of our citizens must be a priority." Crump, the first African-American woman to be elected to the City Council, points to her sponsorship of legislation creating Lead-Free Safe Houses in the City as one of the highlights of her career. The objective of this program is simply—and im-

see/ELECTIONS page 10

Bell Atlantic's Freeman comes back to Jersey

NEW YORK—William M. Freeman, currently president and CEO of Bell Atlantic—Washington, D.C., has been named president and CEO of Bell Atlantic—New Jersey. He succeeds Len J. Laue, who has resigned to accept the position as Senior Vice-President at Sprint in Kansas.

Bell Atlantic's Executive Vice President for external affairs and corporate communications, Morrison DeS. Webb, praised Freeman as a "skilled telecommunications industry veteran" and valuable members of a strong Bell Atlantic senior management team. "Bill brings to New Jersey a proven record of accomplishment as president and CEO of our operations in the nation's capital."

Freeman is a member of the national board of directors of Junior Achievement (JA) and chairman of the board of the Washington Area JA. In Washington, Freeman is a member of the board of governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a principal of the Council for Excellence in Government and a member of the board of directors of Gallaudet University.

A native of Plainfield, Freeman, 45, obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Economics from Drew University and a master's of business administration in January 1994.



William Freeman

freedom and management from Rutgers University. He began his telecommunications career with New Jersey Bell in 1974 and worked in engineering, sales and marketing, finance, human resources and service costs for New Jersey Bell and Bell Atlantic Network Services, Inc. Freeman was selected as a Presidential Executive Exchange Fellow in 1989. He was appointed president and CEO of Bell Atlantic—Washington in January 1994.

Making history, making money

By Carole Weatherford

Historically speaking, African Americans have a tradition of money smarts. "In some parts of Africa and the Caribbean, friends, neighbors and relatives contribute money to a pool called a 'susu,'" Carol Davis, president of the Coalition of Black Investors explained last month on the rotating basis, one member of the susu has a chance to use the money in the fund.

African Americans also showed economic know-how during Reconstruction. By the turn of the century, black enterprises were booming. In 1893 North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, still the largest black-owned insurance company, attained \$100 million in assets. In 1903, Magie Lena Walker founded St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Va., becoming the nation's first female bank president. In Los Angeles, Biddy Mason amassed so much real estate that her grandson was the richest black in the city by 1900. And by 1910, hair care manufacturer Madame C.J. Walker had become the first African-American woman millionaire.

At the same time thriving African-American communities cropped up across the country. In the early 1900s, the Tulsa, Okla., community known as "Black Wall Street" boasted an unprecedented 10 black millionaires. And more than 600 black Tulsa residents had cash assets of \$5,000 to \$500,000 each. According to Ron Wallace, author of *Revisiting Black Wall Street*, a 36-square-block area of North Tulsa included more than 600 businesses. All that vanished on June 1, 1921, when white residents organized a massacre.

African-American communities in Knoxville, Fla., and Wilmington, N.C., also came to violent ends. African-Americans, however, continued to advance economically. In 1970 Joseph Seales III became the first black member of the New York Stock Exchange. A year later, Johnson Products became the first black firm to be listed on the American Stock Exchange. Over his lifetime, Birmingham, Ala., businessman A.G. Gaston, who died in 1996 at 103, built a \$35 million empire that included a bank, an insurance company, radio stations, a funeral home, a

cemetery, a nursing home and a hotel. In 1991, revenue for the top 100 black businesses increased at more than five times the rate of revenue for the top 100 white businesses. Last year, Black Enterprise named Television became the first black middle class firm to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. And TLC Beatrix, Ltd.—purchased by a black entrepreneur and philanthropist—reported Lewis in 1987 for \$985 million—nearly more than \$1.5 billion in sales.

African American households also fared well from 1969 to 1989. Although some formerly working class families slipped into poverty, the black middle class remained stable and the black upper class grew.

On average, however, while Americans have ten times the net worth that African Americans do. This makes a strong case for African Americans to adopt a more aggressive, and opportunistic investment philosophy. That means looking beyond the safe havens of stocks and bonds, mutual funds and private ventures.

Investment clubs, a concept similar to the African susu, can be the African-American community's best hope for achieving economic equality. Through clubs, blacks can invest more money in greater numbers and at a faster rate. Members make nominal investments, sometimes as little as \$25 each. With increased buying power, clubs cash in on our ability to pool collectively for the common good. Most importantly, sharing knowledge, resources, and risk. Fraternities, sororities, churches, professional associations and extended families can form investment clubs.

Investment clubs are advocated by the Coalition of Black Investors (COBI), a black economic network based in Winston-Salem, N.C. that is organizing a National Week of Investment April 20-24. During this week COBI asks all African Americans to attend financial seminars and apply what they learn to pay themselves on "Pay Day" April 24.

"There's no denying it," says COBI President of National Affairs, "African Americans have made history. Now, it's time to make money."

Honoring the most influential: The Third Annual City News 100 Most Influential

By g.r. mattox

The Third Annual City News 100 Most Influential to take place at the city for this year's event. In addition to running the nomination form in the paper since the fall, former honorees and former corporate sponsors are asked to make nominations.

The criteria for becoming a member of the ranks of the "100 Most" is very simple. "We are an African-American newspaper, and we are committed to African-American and urban communities," Mrs. Johnson stresses. "Those people who have contributed to the progress of black people in New

Jersey or to the urban centers—where we live and work—are the ones we want to applaud."

"This year's planning has gone well," Mrs. Johnson said, noting that there has been an increase in corporate sponsorship. "We just believe that there the 100 has gained a reputation for the kind of Newark and city of commitment that we have to making sure that people know about the wonderful things that go on in New Jersey through the efforts of our honorees."

One of the most interesting aspect of the event is getting the nominations in itself. "Some people thought we would have a hard time honoring the first one hundred, much less the second round," Mrs. Johnson said. "What has been proven is that there are so many people doing so many things, that the list gets no shorter. Another interesting fact is the evening shift. The people who attend that meet and talk among each other takes the practice of networking to a whole new level."

John Johnson is joined in this observation by her husband, City News Publisher, Dr. Henry Johnson: "I don't think that there's another state in this country where you build to give one another to try to build a better future for our community. We are an African-American newspaper, and we are committed to African-American and urban communities." Mrs. Johnson stresses, "Those people who have contributed to the progress of black people in New

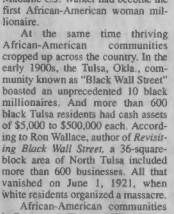
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NATIONAL BRIEFS

Blacks nearly half of new AIDS cases in 1996

WASHINGTON—Each hour, three African Americans contract HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. African Americans represent 12 percent of the total U.S. population, yet they account for 43 percent of new AIDS cases in 1996, according to a recent survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

AIDS is the leading killer of African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. More Blacks die from AIDS than from homicide, drugs and alcohol, cancer and heart disease combined. Of the nearly 380,000 people who have died from AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981, as of December 1996, 120,000 were African Americans. "We must not be coddled by the media into believing that AIDS is over," said one trustee of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care.

Despite the drop in the number of deaths from AIDS, the number of African Americans who become infected with HIV continues to rise. About 100,000 new cases of HIV are reported each year. "Three-fourths of the new cases of AIDS striking children are Black," said one trustee. "The death toll for 13 percent of new AIDS cases among African men. Black women make up 60 percent of all new cases. Among African American women, and have an overall AIDS case rate 16 times that of White females, the Kaiser survey found.

Reparations Revival Meeting Held

WASHINGTON—Congressman John Conyers, Jr. was joined by 150 supporters at a day-long conference on reparations for Black Americans held at the historic Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. on April 2.

Many in the Black community believe that now is the time to push this issue through because of President Clinton's Race Initiative and the African tour, where the president all but apologized for slavery. The meeting was convened by legal scholar Dr. Robert Brock, a leading expert on reparations, and featured Sen. Ben Cardin's new Reparations Study Bill H.R. 40 first introduced in 1989. The purpose of the conference was to develop concrete strategies for the passage of H.R. 40 and plans for mobilizing the public.

International national organizations participated in the conference including the NAACP, the National Black Farmers Association, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), the Nation of Islam, the National Association of Black Lawyers (NABL), and the USDA Minority Employee Coalition.

Congressman Conyers told the group he would endorse lawsuits for damages stemming from slavery and said he would consider taking the case for reparations to the United Nations. The 9th Annual N'COBRA Reparations Conference will be held June 26-28 at Hampton University. For more information call Khadija at 757-723-2696 or E-mail: ubus@pin.net.

Africans get raw job deal in Britain

LONDON, England (PANA)—Africans in Britain are getting a raw deal on the employment front although, on average, they are better educated than White workers. The London Chamber of Commerce said in a report published earlier this month. The report, the result of research by the chamber and The University of Westminster, found that non-Whites were better qualified than White workers but were more likely to be unemployed or paid less than their White counterparts.

The researchers said that White workers were more likely to be represented among senior management than Black workers. It was discovered that nationally, employment rates among White men were high and unemployment rates low. In London, Africans and Bangladeshis suffer high unemployment rates.

Non-White workers make up about 20 percent of the city's population. The average weekly wage in the U.K. is 141 pounds (about \$225) for White workers and 135 pounds (about \$225) for Blacks. In Greater London, the figures are 161 pounds (\$248) and 143 pounds (\$236), respectively.

Commenting on the findings, the chief executive of the London City Council, Simon Sperry, said: "Many ethnic minority workers seem to be over-qualified for the jobs they are doing. It is also of concern that they also seem to be being out to White workers in London and other parts of the country when it comes to pay."

Clinton reflects on Africa trip

I recently returned from a six-country trip to sub-Saharan Africa. This extraordinary tour took us to Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and Senegal. I was one in a delegation of elected officials, business people, religious leaders, representatives of organized labor and civil rights groups invited by President Bill Clinton to accompany him and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on the trip.

In each country, the response to the President was exciting, exhilarating and overwhelmingly positive. Well over one million people gathered to see President Clinton in Ghana.

In Uganda, the school children sparked and performed for the President. In Rwanda, the President brought tears to the crowd when he admitted that the United States and other nations did too little, too late to avoid genocide in Rwanda. The President pledged support for the victims and for the appointment of an international commission to prevent future genocide.

In South Africa, the President visited Robbin Island with President Nelson Mandela and held serious discussions about the on-going relationship between South Africa and the United States. In Botswana, the President praised President Festus Mosele for his leadership in promoting democracy and the tremendous progress of Botswana.

President Clinton visited the island of Goree and toured the slave quarters where millions of Africans were held, died, and suffered brutality and, eventually, were shipped to the United States, the Caribbean and other countries. There, the President described the island and pointed to the African American Members of

Congress, praised us for our strength and leadership despite the inhuman treatment of our ancestors.

We met with environmentalists who discussed the complications of protecting the environment, while recognizing the need for poor people to use the natural resources—trees for wood, soil for farming and animals for food. There also were meetings with women on health issues and human rights organizations.

There was much discussion about the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act H.R. 1432, which recently passed in the House of Representatives. This legislation creates new opportunities for trade and investment in Africa. During the trip, there also was a renewed commitment to continue, and not replace, aid with trade in Africa.

It is important that this government develop a public policy that does not usurp the authority of African nations to control their own economies because of the daunting tasks they face to build a firm infrastructure, foster human rights and establish international trade.

The President's visit helped to shine the spotlight on the great continent of Africa. The President hoped to dispel the negative images of Africa and portray its greatness and possibilities.

Together with my colleagues, my work will continue. Last month the CIG, in cooperation with the African American Institute, launched "Africa Thursdays," a monthly meeting on Africa to bring together members of Congress and the White House, the State Department and non-governmental agencies to work towards developing a comprehensive Africa policy. We believe this type of focus will help the President and the people of Africa

to move a positive African agenda forward.

President Clinton is to be commended for his vision of Africa's possi-

bilities. His historic trip has focused America's attention on this continent in new ways. We have a unique opportunity that we must not squander.

Payne to meet with Congolese President

By Mr. matter

At a recent meeting where he gave a special report on the presidential trip to Africa, Congressman Donald Payne mentioned that while in Africa he met with Congolese President Ron Kabila. During this meeting preliminary plans were discussed for the two to meet during the summer.

In a House floor speech last month, Solomon said Annan "ought to be" a member of the audience for his speech against New York Republican Representative Gerald Solomon for making a statement that many considered to be a slur on the president.

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Congressman Payne and Congolese President, Ron Kabila

U.S. military action against Iraq, but Solomon saw him as putting Iraq's interests over those of the United States.

Congressman Payne, a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, called Solomon's remark a "racist insult" that conjures up "The painful image of a black person being whipped into submission by his master."

Although Payne called for an apology from Solomon, he later wrote in a letter to Solomon: "While I appreciate your apology for the use of offensive language, I must strenuously object to your false characterization of Kofi Annan's position on negotiations between the U.S. and Iraq. It is the responsibility of any negotiator to evaluate a given situation and to accurately report the viewpoint of all sides when striving to reach a fair and workable agreement. It is patently absurd to say that Kofi Annan, who is known for his diplomacy and sense of fairness, would verbally designate the United States. In fact, what he did was to report the Iraqi position that Saddam Hussein had used the term 'cowboy' to refer to U.S. members of the inspection team. To blame Mr. Annan for reporting an offensive remark made by Saddam Hussein is a serious distortion of the truth."

CITY NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY PSE&G DUN & BRADSTREET presents

The Third Annual 100 Most Influential

Honoring
100 individuals who have selflessly
contributed to the progress of black people in New Jersey or
made significant contributions to the rebirth of
New Jersey's urban communities

May 7, 1998

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Business Attire

OBITUARY The closing of Central High

The announced closing and relocation of Newark's Central High school has upset some graduates and students who attended this facility that served generations of students.

Change is very hard to accept when loyalty comes into play. People got angry when Valisburg High was closed. There were also grumbles when South Side changed to the name Malcolm X Shabazz. Some got upset when Clinton Place Junior High was renamed. With change always in our lives—homes, jobs, spouses—one constant for many is to be able to say "I graduated from that school." To look back on those high school years, whether they are full of glowing memories or of stressful incidents, gives one a sense of place and a link to one's personal past.

Central High promises to be a change for the better. There will be a brand new Central, in a new location, and the city will benefit from a new Science High in the old Central High location that will make use of all the advantages of being in the middle of Science Park.

Even when change brings progress we still want our memories. We want our children to do better, but we want to show them, "This is where I went to school." While we applaud the progress the city and our educational system is making, our feeling of nostalgia still tug at our pant leg.

Letter to the Editor Dear Editor:

Very soon, the readers of this newspaper will begin to see small groups of men and women, wearing bright yellow jackets or yellow baseball caps or yellow vests, who, as members of Lions Clubs, will be soliciting donations from you. These groups will appear at street corners, malls, shopping centers, supermarkets, fast food restaurants and almost anywhere else that there is considerable pedestrian traffic.

The purpose of this effort by these dedicated people is singular. It is to raise the money necessary for Lions Clubs to fulfill their primary mission—the improvement of the quality of life of those who have already lost their sight or who suffer from any number of vision disorders and are at risk of blindness.

The ultimate recipients of this assistance might be a neighbor, a friend or a relative right in that local community. Because Lions is a worldwide volunteer service organization, the recipients could be intermediary governmental or private agencies who are also concerned with persons with vision afflictions who reside in developing nations. Whether the location, it is well known that the number of persons who are already blind is enormous and those who are at risk of becoming blind as the result of diabetic eye disease, glaucoma, macular degeneration, insect and bacteria-borne diseases, is even greater.

The particular activity which members of Lions Clubs join together in fundraising appeals at this time of year is known as the "White Cane" days. This is derived from the miniature "White Cane" a universal symbol of blindness, which is presented to all donors as an expression of thanks as well as a memento of the importance of their contribution. The Lions who solicit these monies are your neighbors in your own community. They are not part of any secret society nor is their membership limited by any consideration at all other than a desire to help others in need. They are out there looking for financial help from you to help them do what must be done to provide a little comfort to an extremely large number of people who have already lost or are in danger of losing one of life's treasures.

Whether you give or not, if so, how generously, is a decision that only you can make. But it is important for you to know who it is who's asking for your donation and the noble purpose of that request.

Bert Barnett
The Lions Club of Plainfield
969 Woodland Avenue
Plainfield

The need for black political unity

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrell

Throughout America, numerous statewide, county and local elections are taking place. In Illinois, for example, 16 African Americans are seeking statewide and county offices.

With more than 8,000 African American elected officials in this country, the question remains why is it that African Americans still have limited political influence and virtually no collective political power to address the critical political issues facing our communities?

With the host of political issues facing the African American community, the community needs political unity.

The only way that we can gain Black political power in America is to achieve the highest level of Black unity. In other words, in order for the African principle to become a reality we must strive for a level of Black political unity. Our African American political leaders must not forget that without the support of African American masses, their ability to represent us in the attainment of Black political power will be limited.

Group interests in American politics are old as "apple pie." All elected groups in this society who have acquired some measure of political power have done so by sticking together when their own ethnic group runs for a political office. The Irish, Polish, Italians and Jewish groups, etc., are all outstanding examples of this fact in American politics and African political life.

Until recently, this has not been the

case in the African American community. In American politics of this century, African Americans elected to public office have tended to represent the interests of outside white power groups. This is the case with the 16 African Americans seeking statewide and county offices. Our African American political leaders support those African Americans seeking political office who exemplify this kind of behavior. We should send them a warning shot by voting them out of office.

All African American people need to take an inventory of the current political scene in terms of how the white ethnic groups are fighting vigorously to push forward their political agendas. It should be clear that Black people need our own Black Political Agenda that speaks to the collective needs of the Black community.

The challenge of developing a Black Political Agenda requires that we take up the position of the National Black Leadership Initiative (NBLI). Constitution that states, "We must 'delicately formulate the conservative, moderate, reform, radical, nationalist and revolutionary concerns into a dynamo' agenda, which speaks to our collective interest as a people."

Finally, in the words of Frederick Douglass who remains in our hearts, "Power concedes nothing without a demand, it never did and it never will." Thus, "Without struggle there is no progress."

Dr. Conrad Worrell is the national Chairman of the National Black United Front.

Sap in the Face of the Reverend Floyd Flake

By Jackie Cassell

Have you heard the saying "Don't throw the baby with the bath water?"

Former Democratic congressman Floyd Flake was New York's recently unseated representative to the Black Legislative Caucus. Playmaker was not welcome at the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus. Playmaker, it should be, it should be.

Rev. Flake spent six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He is also pastor of the 9,000 member Allen A.M.E. Church in New York.

All of these qualifications would seem to make him a shoo-in for the Black Caucus, right? Wrong? Rev. Flake has a problem—a problem for the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, that is. He is the founder of the 480-year-old Allen Christian School. To make matters worse, he is one of the greatest speakers in America today on the issue of educational reform.

"When a white person kills a black person, we all go out in the streets and protest," says Rev. Flake. "But our children are being educationally killed every day in public schools and nobody says a thing."

Black folks across the country also believe that to reach this problem, predominantly black congregations have started private schools in urban areas totaling more than 400 across the country.

The Institute for Independent Education reports that the number of black church schools has doubled in the past 12 years. Rev. Flake and other black pastors around the nation are saving, transferring and failing student from the public school system.

But for a minister who took education into his own hands by creating his own school, educational reform must become a top priority with a strong mission statement.

It appears this is the fear of the

Indiana Black Legislative Caucus. Rev. Flake must have a nerve. So much so that the anti-reform black representation in Indiana could not risk having him speak.

Indiana is currently considering education reform legislation that allows parents to receive up to \$2,000, depending on the number of children and their income. The money can be used by parents for remediation, textbook, tutoring camps, tuition or any number of other things—as long as it helps their youngsters do better in school.

Now, who could be against that? Most of the members of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, that's who. While education reform legislation did pass in the Indiana Senate, it was opposed by black legislators.

It is disturbing that the desire to improve education to help their children is not at the top of the agenda of some of the black legislators. Given the fact that legislative responses to the Indiana bill were reported to be only 46 against the bill and an overwhelming 893 in support of it. Are these legislators responding to the voters who elected them?

Equally disturbing is the literal slap in the face to the Rev. Flake. Playmaker, with the withdrawal of his invitation to playmaker, it apparently does not matter that Rev. Flake has spent years supporting the education of his own children. He dares to go against the prescribed agenda, the baby is thrown out with the bath water.

Never mind that Rev. Flake has a heart for failing students and has set out to help them. To his critics, he has now joined the ranks of the selfishly simpletons. The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and its invitation to playmaker, it apparently does not matter that Rev. Flake has spent years supporting the education of his own children. He dares to go against the prescribed agenda, the baby is thrown out with the bath water.

Jackie Cassell is a member of the National Advisory Council of the African American leadership network Project.

School vouchers divide African Americans

By Salim Mwakuli

School vouchers have become a central issue for African Americans when it comes to education.

The idea of school vouchers in public schools has been a hot topic in the Black community across the country. A poll taken last March found that 57.3 percent of African Americans support the idea of school vouchers.

But the idea of school vouchers has a jump of 10 percentage points in just one year. "All across the country, the idea of school vouchers is gaining momentum," says Bert Barnett, a Black political leader.

But, he says, it is important for you to know who it is who's asking for your donation and the noble purpose of that request.

Salim Mwakuli is a member of the Chicago-based In These Times magazine.

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Crises also complain that private schools are always held accountable. They are concerned that vouchers could lead to the reintegration of schools, as white families also take advantage of the voucher program to enroll their children in private schools. Many opponents contend that any program providing public money for private education is unconstitutional.

Black progressives also oppose vouchers because they violate the spirit of equal education. The progress the United States has made toward providing mainstream access to various minority groups is due, in large part, to the socializing function of the public education system.

To help stem the growing popularity of school vouchers, the NAACP and People for the American Way (PFAW) have organized Partners for Public Education, a national anti-voucher lobbying group.

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FIELD ASSIGNMENT Auto Insurance Politics

By Walter Fields

It was just six months ago that the state was engaged in a gubernatorial election. One of the defining issues in that campaign was the reform of our state's automobile insurance system.

New Jersey has the highest rates in the nation and Governor Jim McGreevey used that information as a centerpiece of his campaign. Although the Woodbridge mayor came out short in his bid to oust incumbent Governor Christine Todd Whitman, McGreevey was able to force Republicans to make auto insurance a priority item on their legislative agenda. The Republican leadership felt compelled to take away the Democrats' momentum on the issue.

It's now April and gubernatorial politics is once again taking center stage in Trenton. This time though, the actors are two leading Republican candidates already staking their claim to the State House. The debate over auto insurance reform has become the centerpiece of a strategic battle between the leadership of both houses. Senate President John DiFranco and Speaker Jim Collins have an eye toward 2001 as they claim their turf on this high-profile issue. The two Republicans are considered to be leading contenders for their party's nomination three years from now.

The issue recently passed auto insurance reform legislation that DiFranco claims will provide drivers with a 15 percent reduction in rates. The Senate bill has the support of the governor and was hailed as comprehensive reform that will lower rates for all drivers regardless of their driving record. Critics of the Senate bill include the trial bar.

As DiFranco took center stage after the Senate bill was passed, the Assembly leader took a low profile. As the media swamped the Senate president, Collins was preparing to take a more active role in the South Jersey Republican made it clear that he would not simply accept the Senate bill. In fact, he announced

his determination to go one step beyond his counterpart in the upper house. Collins indicated that he would seek greater rate reductions for drivers by eliminating the "ceiling" on urban rates. The speaker claims that forcing suburban drivers to subsidize urban rates is unfair. The majority of the insured in the state. Under the present system, higher insurance rates in many suburban areas suppress the rates paid by drivers in our state's inner cities. Lifting the cap could mean that rates could almost double for drivers in places like Newark, Camden and Union counties.

All of this maneuvering, however, may have grave consequences for residents in urban communities. Securing auto insurance can be a challenge for city rates. Rates while capped, are still very high. Thackford insurance brokers in city neighborhoods forces many drivers to go outside of their immediate area to get coverage. And most city drivers wind up in a higher risk category simply because of their residence in a city, regardless of their driving record. This means that city residents cannot afford to live in their own cities. Desperate for a way out, many city residents have turned to mobile providers transportation to their place of employment. It is a catch-22 that has plagued city drivers for years.

The Collins proposal, if enacted into law, could inadvertently force many drivers to leave their neighborhoods. We could see the emergence of uninsured skyrocket. Such a situation would place all drivers and their families at a higher risk. Desperate for a way out, many city residents have turned to mobile providers transportation to their place of employment. It is a catch-22 that has plagued city drivers for years.

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Jonesboro and the culture of violence

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

up in a culture that is a conflict of instant gratification and deprivation. We all have a right to be consumers of material goods and mass culture—and much of our society is organized to deliver it. At the same time, many people experience a deep lack of gratification and coherence in daily life.

Some people call the culture and law professions have called the shootings an "aberration" or "freak attack." What is mean by this? The label "aberration" suggests that there is no connection between what is happening in the mainstream of American life and the killings at Jonesboro.

But this analysis covers over the troubling fact that "aberrations" are becoming more and more frequent. Disgruntled and frustrated employees murder their bosses. A group of middle-class students stage a 16-year-old teacher's school basement. And on and on.

Our culture of violence will not be overcome by either denying its existence or by intervening punishment. As one psychologist pointed out, "These children, because their impulsivity, would not have stopped their actions because of longer sentences." This is obviously true. But even "impulsivity" is shaped by the social environment. And we can engage that culture, until we open up opportunities and environments in which young people—and adults—can create positive alternatives to the culture of violence, then these tragic "aberrations" will more and more become the norm.

Lenora B. Fulani currently chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

PARTISHPAY—The Morris County Chapter of Commerce will hold its "Show Me the Technology Trade Show" from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Parkway Hilton Hotel. Admission is free. For more info, call 973-530-3882, ext. 12.

RED HOOK—Learn "how to network" at a short seminar with Donnick Valeri from 5:30 p.m. at the OMM Mail, Inc. For more info, call 718-875-1370.

ELIZABETH—Coinciding with Earth Day, companies, government offices and organizations will dig through and clean out their files, desks, desktops and e-mail boxes. A full day of free seminars and conferences on Earth Day's activities at 11 a.m. at City Hall. For more info, call 908-420-4028.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

NEWARK—A free workshop "Marketing and Advertising You and Your Business" will be held at 12 p.m. at Newark International Airport. For more info, call 973-961-4278.

NEW YORK—A free conference, "The Diversity and The Capital Markets" will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the World Trade Center. To register, call 212-912-8249.

SPRINGFIELD—Registration Service Engineers Society presents Bill Lamm to speak on "Superheat and Subcooling" from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. For more info, call 201-794-0055.

PISCATAWAY—The role of women in the globalization of African culture will be the focus of a Rutgers conference during the 25th. For more info, call 732-932-8701.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

SOMERVELL—An "Under the Dome" seminar will take place at the County Administrative Bldg. From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more info, call 508-725-1552.

NEWARK—The next meeting of the Community Advisory Board for the NJM Foundation will be at 9 a.m. at BlueCross BlueShield. For more info, call 508-777-5034.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

MOUNTAINVIEW—The 26th Annual Founders' Day Luncheon will be held by the Union County Club 11:30 a.m. at L'Affaire Restaurant.

NORTH BRANCH—Course on "Effective Business Writing in the Workplace" takes place at The Institute for Business and Professional Development - Raritan Valley Community College. For more info, call 908-215-8671.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

JERSEY CITY — The Department of Continuing Education at Rider University Community College offers "Principals Accounting II" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 201-614-2107.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

EAST RUTHERFORD—Registration is free to attend the N.J. Transportation Marketplace at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel. For more info, call 201-998-0500.

WASHINGTON, DC—A press briefing for "Women Business Owners of Color: Challenges and Accomplishments" will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the National Press Club. For more info, call 301-485-4975.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

PLAINFIELD—A business writing workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Plainfield Community Center. For more info, call 908-756-5000, ext. 2396.

JERSEY CITY—A regional training program for small, minority-owned construction firms will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, City Hall. The program ends June 17th. For more info, call 201-647-5570.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

JERSEY CITY—Marketing Methods for the Travel Industry and "Steering the Globe: Geography and Itinerary" will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Union County Community Center. For more info, call 973-714-2107.

EATONTOWN—The Fifth Annual Equal Opportunity Dinner will be held at Gibbs Hall. For more info, call 732-845-1868.

SECAUCUS—The 20th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner will be held 6:30 p.m. at the Meadowlands Hilton. For more info, call 201-451-8888, ext. 231.

NEW YORK—The Fashion Institute of Technology Seminar Dept. offers an intensive two-day workshop for "Retail Management" from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To register, call 212-217-7715.

PHILADELPHIA—A two-day workshop teaching participants to conduct effective market research, information strategies, for more information, call 1-800-878-5577.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

HARLEM—A one-day, 8th Annual Development seminar will be held at the Apollo Theater from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This seminar will educate, stimulate and empower aspiring artists and community youth to reach for their stars and beyond. For more info, call 712-275-2858.

HUD Community Builders launch major revitalization initiative

WASHINGTON - Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo today launched a landmark initiative to revitalize cities by recruiting hundreds of the best and brightest minds into government service through two-to-four year temporary fellowships. This announcement follows a meeting of distinguished leaders from the private and public sector, including community and economic development specialists from across the country, who are serving on the Community Builders Fellowship Advisory Board.

In partnership with Harvard University, HUD's Community Builders Fellowship will resemble an "urban Peace Corps," offering highly competitive positions for skilled professionals from all walks of life to revive and strengthen neighborhoods. Community Builders will be based out of HUD's 51 field offices and will travel into nearby cities and towns to serve as the agency's first point of contact. They will be equipped with computer laptops that will effectively serve as mobile offices and technology links, providing the latest information on how the agency can assist communities and what HUD-funded efforts are already underway.

The Community Builders program marks a turning point in the way we approach problem-solving in our communities, especially our urban centers, which are facing complex economic and social challenges," Cuomo said. "We will link the determined energy and bold ideas of our brightest minds with the greatest strengths in communities, creating a revolving door of talent between HUD and our communities and replenishing that talent every two-to-four years."

The Community Builders Fellowship is a joint effort between HUD and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. If selected, a Community Builder will receive a year of training at Harvard, followed by two weeks of training at HUD. They will then begin their work on the front lines in communities across the country. Training at Harvard will emphasize case studies and successful models of

community development strategies as well as specific skills needed. Community Builders also will be trained in all aspects of HUD operations and will serve as team builders, fostering partnerships and innovation inside and outside the agency.

"We will be training and educating a new generation of leaders from all walks of life, drawing on the compassion and competence of people who live and work in hundreds of communities," Cuomo said. "These smart, talented individuals will be HUD's front door, welcoming change and building a stronger, healthier American Community."

Community Builders will be recruited from many professions. A few examples include economic development experts, academics, non-profit directors, bankers, school principals, law enforcement officials, advocacy workers, health care workers and technology specialists. Those selected will be hired through the same process as civil service, career employees in the federal government. While in service, a Community Builder is a paid Federal employee who receives the same benefits as other Federal employees.

Anyone interested in applying for

Extensive information on Community Builder Fellowships, including application materials, may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.hud.gov/cbnewinit.htm> mations.

Rey Ramsey, President, Enterprise Foundation speaks of the Community Builders initiative at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A Community Builders Fellowship must complete an application form and provide other information before May 1, 1998. Selection of finalists and interviews will be made in May and June of 1998. In July, Community Builders will be selected and fellowships will begin in August and September of 1998. To obtain an application form or for more details on applying, call 1-800-497-3823 or contact HUD at:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Human Resources
451 7th Street, S.W. Room 2258
Washington, D.C. 20416



Rey Ramsey, President, Enterprise Foundation speaks of the Community Builders initiative at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

email address: Community Builders @hud.gov

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Rey Ramsey, President, Enterprise Foundation, speaks in support of the community builders initiative at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington.

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo announces the Community Builder Initiative.

Business and Professional Women recognize many achievements



Honoree Helen Puryear Jackson, (left), receives the Sojourner Truth Award from Peola Smith-Smith, National Second Vice President, National Association of Business Women's Club, Inc., at the Central Jersey Club's luncheon in the Ocean Place Hilton Hotel, Long Branch.

By Avery Grant

LONG BRANCH—The Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., recognized seven for achievement at its Annual Founders' Day Luncheon at the Ocean Place Hilton Hotel, Long Branch.

Helen Puryear Jackson, Neptune, received the Sojourner Truth Award. She received the highest award presented by the organization because she was, "committed, caring, and competent, seeing God and Church; and loving and helping people is Helen Puryear Jackson's mission in life."

The Sojourner Truth Award is given to a person who demonstrates community involvement, unselfish service, extensive religious involvement and a strong, courageous character. Jackson is very active in her parish, Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Asbury Park. She helped the Oblate Sisters of Providence get their first convent car; she organized the church's first Lenten of Praxidian and the first Rainbows for All God's Children ministry; she teaches religious education and communion classes, she organizes children, religious and history programs; she is the church's reform, parish council and diocesan pastoral council officer; and served as volunteer church bookkeeper for 15 years.

Jackson's church work extends beyond her parish, she served as a voting delegate in the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Trenton, which through a five-year process, developed and updated 350 statutes governing the 126 parishes throughout the Diocese. She was the only female and African American on this ecclesiastical National. She attended the Eighth National

Black Catholic Congress in Baltimore, last year, and witnessed the dedication of the first and only African American chapel, constructed in the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

Jackson was born and raised in Long Branch and retired as a senior personnel management specialist at Fort Monmouth after a 39-year career. She is currently an attendance officer for the Neptune Township Board of Education.

The Professional Achievement Award was presented to Attorney Debra L. Jackson, the youngest person and the first African American female to be appointed assistant prosecutor in Ocean County. Business Achievement Awards were presented to Rochelle Richardson for her youth advocacy at AT&T and A. Lorraine Jones owner of Kleenex-Berger Carpet Specialist, Asbury Park. Community Service Awards were presented to, Sandee Bowers, Asbury Park, as missionary president and Tabe Back the Community coordinator for her church; and Gertrude M. Harris, Ocean Township, for her extensive volunteer work.

The Cultural Heritage Award was presented to the Shewsbury Award AME Zion Church, and its pastor, Rev. Theodore Calhoun, Sr., for their efforts in perpetuating cultural heritage through their many activities. Scholarships were presented to the following graduating high school seniors: Dennis Graham, Ocean Township High, \$1000; Corinne Union, Long Branch High, \$1000; Nadine Frederique, Neptune, \$1000; Phyllis Parent, Asbury Park High, \$750; Janice Lakenwood High, \$750; Kevin Feldman, Long Branch High, \$750; and Larissa Johnson, High Tech High, \$750.

NJBIA Small Business Committee Off to a Great Start

TRENTON—Over 65 representatives of small business from across the State came to NJBIA's first Small Business Committee (SBC) meeting to discuss their concerns, network with colleagues and hear special guest speaker Karen Franzini of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) on Friday, March 20. Committee Chair Patrick Ryan asked the small business crowd to identify several priority issues they want addressed at upcoming meetings. Among the issues suggested were: finding skilled employees, navigating the environmental regulation maze, addressing health insurance costs, dealing effectively with State agencies, intellectual property issues and business retention programs. The committee will schedule programs to provide the latest useful information on these topics in the near future.

Ms. Franzini, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority, discussed numerous financing options available to small businesses through the Authority. The wide variety of programs came as welcome news to many in the audience.

Designed not only to organize small businesses in New Jersey, the Small Business Committee also functions as an idea and network exchange. As one small business owner said, "I get some

of my best ideas for running my business from other business people I speak with."

NJBIA launched the Small Business Committee to address the specific needs of small businesses and to open to NJBIA members with less than 100 employees. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Bryan Markowitz at 609-393-7707, ext. 225.



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Religion

Herman Amis: 25 years of Connecting the Spirit

By g. matos

One of New Jersey's most well-known and respected radio personalities celebrated 25 years of broadcasting gospel music in the Newark area on Easter Sunday with a sensational gospel show that brought down the house with electrifying performances from some of the best inspirational groups recording today.

Veteran gospel music broadcaster Herman Amis lifted the spirit of hundreds dressed in their Easter best attending his anniversary show at the Christian Pentecostal Church in Irvington. On hand to help him celebrate were some thrilling and moving inspirational groups, including Beverly Monday-Colins & Keyringa, Daniel McFadden & his Disciples, Youngblood and the Gospel Seekers, The Singers Sons of Washington, DC, The Sensational Six, Donald Malloy and the Sensational Chorus, and the Mass Choir of the Motivations of New Jersey and the Lammy Sisters.

Ence, evangelist, and fellow gospel music broadcaster Debra "Lady D" Cooper praised her associate, "It's just an honor to be a part of Brother Herman Amis' 25th Anniversary," she said. "He's been an inspiration to many of us and has brought some of the best gospel music in the industry to this area. Brother Amis has touched many lives, and I pray God gives him 25 more years where he can be a blessing to so many people."

Amis has been a mainstay of Newark-based station WNR-1430AM since 1963. Then, the station was the major communications vehicle for the vibrant Negro community which tended to be new arrivals from the South. On-air personalities like Charlie Green, Mark Allen, and Danny Silas along with Amis made these listeners feel at home. His current radio show, "A Spirit Connection" can be heard weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again in the evening from 10 to 11 p.m. The program can also be heard on WSPW-170AM on Sundays from 7 to 11 a.m. "We can connect parts of the family back together through our music ministry," he said in his address to the crowd that evening.

"I've been in almost every conceivable area of radio in my career. It's been a blessing and I have been blessed!" That career, which started in the late 50's, included time as a popular Rhythm and Blues DJ before turning to gospel.



Nationally known, The Singers Sons of Washington D.C. are members of Faith Temple Free Will Baptist Church of East Orange and Capitol Heights, Maryland.



The Motivations, New Jersey-based gospel recording artists, were one of the headliners of the show.

emulating his mentors on the NIR airwaves like George Hudson and Jonathan Joe Crain. "Growing up, I knew what gospel music was," he said, "but I began to appreciate the music for what it is." He went on to create and launch BET's Gospel Music Video Showcase, and took gospel and R&B to Japan, producing and hosting radio shows. Additionally, Amis wrote a column for a Japanese music magazine there and in the New York area.

WNR's recent programming format is described as "multicultural." Now program announcers buy blocks of time to put their shows on the air. While lovers of gospel music and the African-American community particularly suffer from the changes the station has gone through in recent years, Amis concedes that first and foremost, radio is a busi-

ness. "You're dealing with entrepreneurs that are saying 'Okay, you want gospel, buy this block of time from us, and you can have your gospel program.'"

A fascination with radio gave Herman Amis an idea what he wanted to do and led him through a successful and memorable career. "My dream was to be a top-flight communicator." As a kid in Oxford, North Carolina, the battery-powered radio his mother purchased brought sounds like Count Basie from New York and the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville to his ears late at night. "It was just the idea that I was listening to something that was far away—farther than the mailbox, I said to myself that one day I was going to be like those people I heard on the radio."



Herman Amis has been devoted to gospel music for 25 years.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

FREEHOLD—The NJ Empty Bowls Event is offering a "Hunger Dinner" at the First United Methodist Church from 6:30 to 7 p.m. For more info, call 732-431-7625.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

WEST NY—Gethsemane Baptist Church will hold their annual "Joy Night Gospel Concert" with a soul stirring performance by the "Inspiration of Moderns, NY," the third place winners in the 1997 McDonald GospelFest. For more info, call 201-662-1346.

NEWARK—New Hope Baptist Church will host Musical Celebration Service Concert at 7 p.m. under the direction of Minister of Music, Emily "Clay" Housh. For more info, call 201-622-4547.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

NEWARK—Rev. Dr. Charles E. Thomas, Senior Pastor at New Hope Baptist Church, will install Rev. Joe A. Carter as co-pastor. This event highlights a week-long celebration of the installation services beginning today at 6:45 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church. For more info, call 201-622-4547.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

EAST ORANGE—The first statewide African Liberation Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Park Avenue Christian Church. For more info, call 973-674-4578.

Annual Spring Revival Services to feature Jeremiah Wright

MONTCALM—Renowned preacher and scholar Dr. Jeremiah Wright returns to New Jersey May 18-22, to lead the featured revival at the annual Spring Convocation services of the St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair. Marking his fourth visit to St. Paul, Dr. Wright is the pastor of the 6,000 member Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, the largest and fastest growing church in the United Church of Christ.

Joining Dr. Wright will be Dr. John Kinney, Dean of the School of Theology at a Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, who will coordinate the church's Christian Education Institute, also to be held May 18-22. In addition to the aforementioned preachers, St. Paul will also host two special gospel concerts as part of the Spring Convocation event. St. Paul Baptist Church is located at 119 Elm Street in Montclair. New Jersey. Rev. Dr. V. DuWayne Battle is the pastor. For directions and additional information, please call 973-746-8338.

Balance in our lives

By Jusious Ricardo Stanton

Our ancestors developed a holistic view of the universe and life. It stressed that we are part and parcel of the divine order, that we have a specific place and role in the overall scheme of things. To African, natural order was perceived to be a harmonious, integrated whole. This was because they functioned naturally in a holistic manner, using the whole brain. Unlike Western psychology and culture, which is primarily left hemisphere oriented, the African cognitive processing relied heavily on both the left and right hemispheres. This natural and efficient approach is what produced their holistic view of the universe. Our people recognized that human beings are complex and multifaceted, multidimensional entities. They saw the physical, but also intuited (using the right hemisphere) the non-material facets of our being.

Western psychology differs greatly from African and Asian approaches to living. Europeans analyze, dissect and compartmentalize everything but are totally unable to see the interconnectedness/interdependence of things. They suffer from what I call "cognitive myopia." As disenchanted, dehumanized and denatured captives in Western culture, we have metabolized the Western mind set. A mind set that is primarily materialistic (to Africans the physical universe is undergirded by a spiritual universe) gender and race chauvinistic, selfishly self-absorbed yet alienated from their concept of God (a giant White man), the female element and nature.

We are more than mere flesh and blood, we have a spiritual component and an in-dwelling, higher consciousness that must be acknowledged, tapped into and integrated into our daily functioning. We must realize we are not weak, inferior, isolated, alienated entities, we are strong, mighty, continuous, linked directly and consciously to "The First Cause," our ancestors, our contemporaries and future generations. We must love and appreciate who we are, where we came from and the dynamic life-enhancing metaphysical heritage of Africa.

Obituary Leah Kate Jones McGee, fashion model dies at 56

by Avery Grant

LONG BRANCH—Leah Kate Jones McGee, 56, a Long Branch, N.J., fashion model died at Monmouth Medical Center.

Naturally photogenic, she was known for her beauty both inside and out. McGee capitalized on her beauty by accepting many modeling assignments, and was trained by and modeled for the Ophelia DeVoe School and Agency, and Whitman Modeling Agency, and Daniel Heber, all of New York City.

A member of Second Baptist Church, Mattawan, McGee was born in Uniontown, Alabama to Charity Harris Jones and the late General Jones. She attended school in Uniontown and graduated from Perry County High School, where she was a majorette in the marching band.

Surviving are her husband, Ralph N. McGee Sr. Long Branch, two daughters, Lisa R. McGee, Marymount College, Virginia, and Merle A. McGee, Brooklyn, N.Y., a goddaughter, Tanya Hastings; five stepchildren, Ralph N. McGee Jr., San Francisco, CA, Donald

McGee, Los Angeles, CA, Lehen J. McGee, Brooklyn, NY, Karen McGee-Credle, Long Branch, and Joyce O. Parker, Richmond, VA.; her mother, Cherry Harris Jones, Uniontown, AL; two brothers, General Jones, Rhode Island and Franklin Delano Jones, Uniontown, AL; three sisters, Claudette Tammchill and Leila Anderson, both of Columbia, GA, and Lillie Mae Jones, Uniontown, AL; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Leah Kate Jones McGee

Bertha Heath, Christian, nurse, educator and historical benefactor, dies at 90

by Avery Grant

MIDDLETOWN—Bertha Clara Heath, a lifelong Middletown Township resident, a nurse, educator, and nursing official, died at the age of 90.

In 1997, Mrs. Heath was honored with a proclamation from New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman, and at that time, a large inventory of antique farm equipment was donated to the center. Jane Clark, a Monmouth County Park System supervisor and coordinator for the Heath Center, was with her when she received the proclamation. Clark, in her eulogy said, "A short thirteen years ago when I first met Bertha, I never knew that I would have so many wonderful experiences with her; when we went to Trenton to get the citation from the Governor, Bertha skipped down the sidewalk like a kindergarten."

Surviving are a sister, Anna E. Heath, Spradley of Garden City Park, New York, and several nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made to the Bertha Heath Foundation, P.O. Box 108, Middletown, NJ 07748.

A graduate from Leonard High School, she decided to become a nurse at an early age. In 1930, she graduated from the Harlem Hospital of Nurses. She received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health from New York University in 1948, and her Master's

in Nursing from Columbia University in 1958. She also earned credits towards her Doctorate, and became very involved in the study of Cancer research.

Bertha Heath was born in Uniontown, Alabama to Charity Harris Jones and the late General Jones. She attended school in Uniontown and graduated from Perry County High School, where she was a majorette in the marching band.

Surviving are her husband, Ralph N. McGee Sr. Long Branch, two daughters, Lisa R. McGee, Marymount College, Virginia, and Merle A. McGee, Brooklyn, N.Y., a goddaughter, Tanya Hastings; five stepchildren, Ralph N. McGee Jr., San Francisco, CA, Donald

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Thomas installs successor: Rev. Joe A. Carter becomes New Hope's Co-Pastor

NEWARK—In an important move to prepare for his succession, Reverend Dr. Charles E. Thomas will install Rev. Joe A. Carter as co-pastor of The New Hope Baptist church in Newark, New Jersey. He and Rev. Carter will share the responsibility of pastoring New Hope, one of Newark's largest African American churches, over the next two years.

Rev. Joe Carter is the person to lead this great church into the next millennium, "said Rev. Charles E. Thomas." "I will be able to retire knowing that New Hope's belief in God's power and its commitment to community service continues for generations to come."

Prior to his appointment as co-

pastor, Rev. Joe Carter, a native of Oklahoma, served as assistant pastor of New Hope. During his five year tenure as assistant pastor he was instrumental in developing programs such as Wednesday afternoon bible classes for seniors and Youth Explosion, a Sunday evening service focused on teaching the gospel to youngsters. Reverend Carter's installation will take place Sunday, April 26, at 3:30 PM at New Hope, 106 Sussex Avenue, Newark.

Reverend Randall C. Hutchinson of Oklahoma will officiate. Rev. Thomas will deliver the installation message and Reverend Doctor B.J. Whipp of New York will offer the charge to the new pastor.

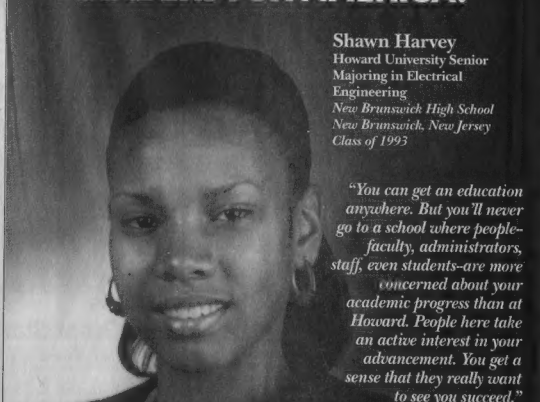
The Sunday service will be the culmination of a week long celebration starting on Monday, April 20. Included in an impressive list of participating clergy are Reverend Jasper Williams of Atlanta, Georgia and Rev. Ron C. Carter of Oklahoma on Friday evening, in celebration of his brother.

Founded in 1903, New Hope Baptist Church was rededicated in 1987 at 106 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ. The Church also owns New Hope Village and 111-119 Sussex Avenue where it runs a day care center and a food and clothing ministry for the needy, and the site of the Mardon P. Thomas Charter School vicinity.

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Health Calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

NORTH BRUNSWICK—The American Heart Association offers a workshop "Stress management for employees will be" for. For more info, call 732-821-2610.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

PLAINFIELD—Blood pressure readings will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center. For more info, call 908-753-3606.

WAYNE—Science lecture series to focus on genetics on the campus of Wayne University. For more info, call 973-220-5285.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

ELIZABETH—An open house to showcase services for people with disabilities will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 80 West Grand Street headquarters of Community Access Unlimited. For more info, call 908-364-3040, ext. 272.

ORANGE—Free breast cancer screening offered by the Hospital Center at Orange from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the HCO NJ Orthopedic Hospital unit located at 229 Central Ave. For more info, call 201-286-2022.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

WNET/13—Frontline presents a feature on the war on Marijuana, airing from 9 to 10 p.m. on channel 13. For more info, call 212-596-3000.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

IRVINGTON—Irvington General Hospital is holding its second annual Spring Health Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This comprehensive health fair is free for the community.

"United Against Cancer"

CHICAGO—Increasing cancer awareness and research funding in the fight for a cure was the message Saturday, March 21 at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Headquarters. Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. was joined by Michael Milken, financier and founder of CAPCURE (the Association for the Cure of Cancer of the Prostate).

Also joining Rev. Jackson were special guests: Reed V. Tuckson, MD, American Medical Association Senior Vice President for Professional Standards (responsible for all AMA public health initiatives), and Mr. Henry Portier, Chairman and Founder of USTOOL (International and Vice Chairman of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition).

Portrait of an Epidemic

When polio was called an epidemic there were 52,000 cases. We do not call cancer an epidemic, but 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will develop cancer in their lifetime.

Since President Nixon declared war on cancer in 1971, the number of 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and 360,000 Americans will die of cancer this year.

American servicemen are five times more likely to die of prostate cancer than they are to die on the battlefield.

Cancer costs more than \$104 billion per year—\$34 billion in direct medical costs, \$12 billion in lost productivity, and \$57 billion in the last few months of life.

Insufficient Federal Government Commitment

Two billion dollars per year on cancer research is not enough.

Michael Milken is recommending that we commit \$20 billion per year for five years - enough to test every known chemical compound on earth with every known cancer cell to develop a cure.

African American Men Disproportionately Affected

African American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world. African American men are 66 percent more likely to get prostate cancer than white American men - who have the second highest rate in the world.

Once diagnosed, African American men are more than twice as likely to die of the disease.

27 percent of African American men who contract prostate cancer will die within five years.

Family History

If one member of a man's family related by blood—his father, brother, son, first cousin, uncle or nephew—has prostate cancer, his chances of getting it go up 100 percent. If three members of a man's family have or have had prostate cancer, his chances of getting it are 97 percent.

New initiative to eliminate minority racial health disparities

By David Satcher, M.D., U.S. Surgeon General

We live in one of the wealthiest and most medically advanced nations the world has ever seen. Yet, in America today, black babies are more likely to die in infancy than white babies. The prevalence rate for diabetes is much higher for African-Americans and American Indians than whites. The AIDS death rate is declining more slowly for blacks and Hispanics than for whites. We cannot sit and must not tolerate these inequities. That is why President Clinton recently announced the historic Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Initiative to eliminate racial disparities in six key areas of health status by the end of the next decade. Ironically, the President chose the year that we're marking the 200th anniversary of the Public Health Service to launch this effort to improve the health of all Americans by closing the gaps in these critical areas: infant mortality, cancer screening and management.

cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS rates, and adult and child immunization.

Infant mortality. Although infant mortality rates have declined overall since the early 1980s, black babies still suffer the country's highest infant mortality rate—14.2 per 1,000 live births in 1996 - nearly two and a half times that of white babies.

Breast and cervical cancer screening and management. According to the latest data from the National Cancer Institute, the five-year survival rates for black women are 15 percent lower than those of white women. Hispanic women, along with black women, have higher cervical cancer death rates than the overall U.S. population. And we cannot overlook black men having the highest prostate cancer death rates in the U.S. While it has not been proven that screening reduces the risk of prostate cancer, we hope to learn something that will ultimately help us with prostate cancer.

Cardiovascular disease. Heart disease and stroke are the major killers

for all Americans, and those diseases take the highest toll on African-Americans and other minority populations. For example, the age-adjusted heart disease death rate for blacks in 1995 was about 40 percent higher than whites and more than 35 percent higher than the overall population.

Diabetes. Blacks are 70 percent more likely than whites to have diabetes, which can result in kidney disease and limb amputations. Diabetes also contributes to increased risk for cardiovascular disease and blindness.

HIV/AIDS Infection Rates. No disease strikes more fear in the heart of African-Americans than HIV/AIDS infection, according to the results of a survey just released by the Kaiser Foundation. That study says African-Americans are twice as likely as others to be worried about becoming infected with HIV; half of all blacks in the survey know someone who has HIV or AIDS or died from AIDS; and more than half of all African-

Americans list AIDS as their greatest health concern. The story here is a classic good news-bad news one—the good news is the overall decline in AIDS cases, but the bad news is the decline is occurring more slowly for African-Americans and Hispanics, and even increasing for some age and risk groups. From 1995 to 1996, the overall U.S. AIDS rate dropped by 23 percent, but the decline for blacks was just 13 percent.

But a new infusion of money is only part of the strategy. The President and U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna E. Shalala are drawing together all of the existing public health and research resources to address these critical problems.

There is no time to lose. This initiative is about saving our mothers from breast cancer, our fathers from heart disease and prostate cancer, and our babies from dying before they can even crawl. It's about better health for all Americans. That's the best investment we can make in strengthening America for the 21st century. And that's the finest legacy we can leave.

Pediatric pizza party

Children hospitalized in the pediatric unit of Jersey City Medical Center look forward to the fun and games each Wednesday night's Pizza Party! A different pizzaria hosts the event each week for children who are medically able to enjoy the treat.

Joe Siano, owner of Mangia Bene, the Italian deli and specialty shop on Newark Avenue in Jersey

City, hosted the event recently, to celebrate the recent opening of his new shop, Mangia Bene II, located on Bowers Street in the Jersey City Heights. In addition to the delicacies he offers at his original shop, Mr. Siano's new location also offers a full menu of hot and cold Italian specialties, and for the first time—Pizaa!



Mr. Siano helps 2-year-old Ny'Asia Powell of Jersey City enjoy a slice of pizza.

New Jersey AIDS cases rise

PRINCETON—The number of New Jersey residents living with HIV/AIDS rose by 1,700 in 1997. By the end of 1997, 24,700 New Jersey residents were living with HIV and AIDS, according to figures recently released by the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services.

Faced with these new statistics and two years after it first recommended action, the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS will be meeting on April 1 to hear the latest scientific evidence on HIV prevention.

"The data show that syringe exchanges have no bad results and are more effective at HIV prevention than any program that New Jersey has launched," declares Dr. Sam Friedman, an AIDS and drug researcher from the National Development and Research Institutes in New York City and one of the experts scheduled to speak before the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS.

In New Jersey, where half of all

HIV cases involve the use of infected needles, the sale of syringes at pharmacies is also an important prevention measure. To date, the Governor and legislature have done nothing about either needle exchange or pharmacy sale of syringes—both urgently needed public health measures and both recommended by the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS two years ago.

Persons living with HIV infection in New Jersey urban areas:

Counties	Total on 12/31/97
Essex	7,347
Hudson	3,403
Passaic	2,090
Union	1,805
Middlesex	1,271
Monmouth	1,258
Bergen	871
Mercer	821

Nutrition quackery

Dr. Karen Enslé, RD, FADA, CPCS,

Have you heard of the new "miracle cures" including enzyme boosters, super green algae, immune botanicals being promoted to cure every malady from food allergy to cancer?

Are families and consumers just being manipulated or are these products potentially dangerous? While some people believe these products work, consumers need to be aware of the possible risks these products pose and what they can do if they suspect a product or service is worthless or even harmful.

Is there harm in the hype?

Just because a product is "natural" or is "herb" does not mean it is necessarily safe. For example, in February 1995, the American Medical Association reported a case of a female who needed liver transplant after the herbal preparation chaparral apparently caused severe hepatitis. Chaparral has active ingredients including a strong antioxidant called nordihydroguajacolic acid or NDGA. Those who use chaparral claim it is made of ground evergreen leaves from a desert shrub known as gnawwood. It supposedly acts to slow the aging process and to improve one's health. These claims are not supported by scientific studies. The AMA has urged physicians to question patients about their use of herbs such as chaparral and other nontraditional medications.

Miracle cures...Where are you?

Despite the reported dangers, health and nutrition quackery exists with a large following of dedicated persons seeking quick cures to health problems and disease.

The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs has recognized that public awareness of health and fitness has encouraged consumers to spend hard-earned dollars on "miracle cures" to improve their health. Quacks are very aware of this and use the "alternative" slogan to their advantage. Somewhere between \$50 to \$60 billion yearly is spent on fraudulent cures. In addition to

products, consumers should be wary of "specialists" who use unproven methods to detect dietary deficiencies. For example, hair analysis, although useful to detect heavy metal poisoning, is not a reliable way to test for general dietary deficiencies. These deficiencies are usually diagnosed through blood, urine, tissue, sputum or metabolic tests.

Other questionable practices include: prolonged fasting, blood purging, the use of food allergies as the cause of health problems from headaches to malaise to depression. A true food allergy involves the immune system and sometimes can be life threatening. Food reactions should be properly evaluated like other medical conditions. Consumers should first start with their family physician and then see if a referral to a specialist is necessary. Beware of practitioners who rule out entire food groups without going through normal medical diagnostic procedures.

Get rid of bad advice

What can consumers do to avoid being misled or influenced by the quack? The best advice is "let the buyer beware." The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs urges consumers to be wary of products that:

- Claim to be quick, painless, and effortless.
- Claim to have special, secret, foreign, ancient or natural ingredients.
- Claim to be effective for a wide variety of conditions.
- Rely on personal stories of success rather than on scientific data for documentation.

Claim that the medical community or government agencies refuse to acknowledge the effectiveness of the cure, product or treatment.

If you have been taken by a quack

Stay calm and contact your physician. If you have a medical problem that is worse due to a product, contact your doctor first. You or your physician can then contact the Food and Drug Administration at 1-800-332-1088 to file a complaint about the product and to start an investigation of the incident.

Mothers-to-be must get tested for HIV virus

By Marian Wright Ziehlman

(NNPA)—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that there were more than 300 babies born with the AIDS virus in 1996. Since 1991 approximately 1,000 children and youth under 25 have died each year from AIDS, and half of all newly diagnosed HIV infections in the US now are in persons under 25.

But there is good news. Today there is only a 25 percent probability that an HIV positive woman will transmit the virus to her unborn child. Those odds could be brought down to only a five percent probability if she is treated with AZT during pregnancy.

Many women don't know if they are HIV positive when they get pregnant. Sometimes they think, "It couldn't happen to me," and a lot of women (and men) don't want to know. That's pure foolishness when you're gambling with your own life. Please don't gamble with your baby's life.

Early prenatal care has always been crucial to giving birth to a healthy baby. In today's world, all pregnant women must insist on an early HIV test as well.

Since a baby is born with its mother's immune system, if a mother is positive a baby will test positive at birth, though many such infants are in fact HIV negative and will convert to negative within the first six months. But infants can show signs of HIV infection early, and in most studies symptoms appear earliest in black infants. Warning signs include diaper rashes that do not respond to treatment, thrush, and frequent and severe ear or other infections. Both the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics encourage voluntary testing which would allow both mother and baby to test positive to begin immediate treatment, and with today's protease inhibitors, there is hope for a meaningful life for both of them. Please, if you are pregnant or think you might be, get tested for HIV. Take care of yourself, hope, and your baby's healthy start.

Body Building-Rehab Style

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Artz Wednesday

April 22-April 28, 1998

City News 8

Billboard

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

IRVINGTON—Unity Productions presents "Spirit and Power," featuring performing poet, Michelle Dalton. This performance poetry fund raiser will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Irvington Manor. Come out for a night of music, poetry and drama. For more info, call 973-375-0914.

UNION—Concert and Jazz Bands play Sousa marches to medleys from Broadway shows beginning at 6 p.m. at Wilkes Theatre, Kean University. This event is free. For more info, call 908-527-2107.

NEW YORK—Inger Sand Lee presents her recent drawings at The New York Festival Film and Video Festival, 5th fl. For more info, call 212-501-1723.

NEWARK—Come celebrate South Africa's Freedom Week with New Community Corporation's African Heritage Cultural Committee from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on April 28th at The Atrium, St. Joseph Plaza. Register by the 24th, call 973-633-7846.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

NEW YORK—Chain Lightning Theatre presents Stephen Marley's new play, "Acts of Faith," beginning previews. It is a Lower East Side love story.

MORRISTOWN—The College of St. Elizabeth presents William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at 11:30 a.m. For more info, call 973-290-4442.

PLAINFIELD—Recording artist, Ms. Carrie Jackson and her all star Quartet will perform live at Plainfield Public Library. The event is free, seating is limited. For more info, call 908-257-2005.

NEW YORK—"Remembering We Select Black Renaissance in Harlem" written by and featuring Amiri Baraka will be performed at 7 p.m. through the 26th at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. For more info, call 212-491-2200.

HEMISTAD—The Hofstra University Dept. of Drama and Dance presents Hofstra Dance Theater at 8 p.m. in the John C. O'Neil Adams Playhouse, South Campus. For more info, call 516-462-6644.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

WAYNE—Balletom dancers, Angela Aguires and Myer Kaplan, tango and rumba in front of the Wayne Orchestra in the ensemble's season finale in a concert devoted to dance music at 8 p.m. in the Shores Center for Performing Arts. For more info, call 973-720-2371.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

LONG ISLAND—Patti LaBelle will perform at Westbury Music Fair through the 26th. Today at 8 p.m. For more info, call 516-334-0800.

WATCHUNG—Marlene Verdick will bring her vocal talents to the Watchung Arts Center at 8 p.m. For reservations, call 908-753-0190.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

WAYNE—Community invited to audition for William Paterson University Summer Theatre from 6 to 9 p.m. in Hunterdon Hall room 201 on campus. For more info, call 973-720-2227.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will host a panel discussion on "The Arts in Jersey City" at 5 p.m. in Grossnickle Auditorium. Admission is free. For more info, call 201-547-4380.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

NEW YORK—You are cordially invited to the opening reception for an installation by Carrie Mae Weems at the Whitney Museum at Philip Morris from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Everything for the bride of color

PLAINFIELD—All aspects of planning a wedding will be the focus of the African-American Bridal Expo held at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark. Bridal services offered include hair rentals, wedding coordinators, florists, caterers, engravers, photographers, entertainment and travel agents. Companies will also display a host of products, including fine china, cakes, party favors, flatware, crystal, headpieces, lingerie, wedding apparel, tuxedos, magazines, and more. In addition, there will be a premier African-American Bridal Fashion Show featuring the top African-American

designers.

"Our spring edition show will feature the largest collection of African-American bridal designers specializing in gowns that range from traditional African to Euro-fanciful," said Robin Lynn Wright, president of Elegant Events Management, the expo's presenter. "These expo's gives brides an array of opportunity for the wedding of their dreams."

The Robert Treat Hotel is located at Fifty Park Place in Newark. New Jersey Admission is \$10.00 for more information, call the Bridal Expo hotline at 718-857-8609.



Scoop Du Jour

Mia X, the bold and brazen emcee gets what she wants, often because she has to fight for it or talk some man out of giving her a wedding. She is carefully due to her in the first place. Girlfriend writes all of her own lyrics, pays her own bills and makes her own decisions without anyone else's approval. Previous albums, *Good Girl Gone Bad* and *Unlady Like* serve as proof of her lyrical powers.

But don't front on the mother of two's acting ability. She played a 'round the way girl in Master P's debut film, "Bout It Bout It." Now she can be seen in "We Got The Hook Up," another No Limit release. It comes out in April. I spoke to Ms. X about what's going on in her life and this is what she had to say:

City News: What was it like working with Foxy Brown on the song "The Party Don't Stop"? That was a nice South meets East collaboration.

Mia X: We didn't actually go into the studio together. We did our tracks down separately. But I liked working, because she and I have a totally different flavor.

CN: You didn't come out to New York to record with Foxy, do you travel much?

Mia X: I travel all the time. We're always doing tours and shows and I'm in the studio a lot, because I'm working on my new album. I'll be out this summer.

CN: As a mother with a non-traditional job, how do you effectively juggle parenting between touring and going into the studio recording?

Mia X: Nobody. I don't trust no bitches around here. I have strong vibes about people and if they've ever helped me, they know the favor has been returned, but I don't pay shady people no mind.

CN: That's good that you've looked out for your friends, because it seems as though many of your peers call shit about how they'll look out for a sister once they get in the position, but when they become big ballers, amnesia sets in and memories of your help and support starts to fade.

Mia X: I know those kind of people too and that's why I don't have no friends.

CN: No friends? I know you don't gossip with your girls on the phone, but you must have female friends or associates.

Mia X: When my girl Jill died, I was left with no friends. I'm always around guys and I don't mind it. We're livin' in the last days and I don't wanna go all into that, but I don't have time to play around with jealous girls. I'm the mother of the No Limit family and I don't let people get close if they're not genuine.

Mia X: They don't like it much. They're like over protective older brothers or fathers really. Guys who wanna roll with me are gonna have a hard time, so I don't even discuss my

love life or personal matters that have to do with guys with my brothers.

CN: So then, who do you confide in when you want to talk about the new love of your life or juicy gossip?

Mia X: Nobody. I don't trust no bitches around here. I have strong vibes about people and if they've ever helped me, they know the favor has been returned, but I don't pay shady people no mind.

CN: That's good that you've looked out for your friends, because it seems as though many of your peers call shit about how they'll look out for a sister once they get in the position, but when they become big ballers, amnesia sets in and memories of your help and support starts to fade.

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'He Got Game,' A Spike Lee Joint

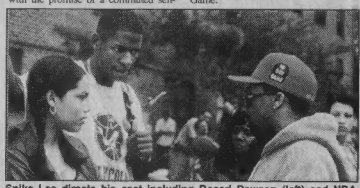
A Spike Lee Joint

Academy Award nominee SPIKE LEE is one of the most prolific and highly regarded filmmakers in America. Herded for his mastery of the film-making and storytelling arts with such critically acclaimed hits as "Malcolm X," "Do the Right Thing," "Mo' Better Blues," "Jungle Fever" and "She's Gotta Have It," Lee now brings to the screen his latest achievement, Touchstone Pictures' drama, "He Got Game." Starring Academy Award winner DENZEL WASHINGTON (Best Supporting Actor, "Glory") and Oscar nominee for "Cry Freedom" and Spike Lee's "Malcolm X"), the motion picture also proudly introduces the NBA Milwaukee Bucks superstar RAY ALLEN, making his feature film acting debut. In addition, the film boasts a soundtrack featuring music from the seminal group Public Enemy, Touchstone Pictures, "He Got Game" represents Spike Lee's twelfth feature film.

Denzel Washington stars as Jake Shuttlesworth, a prisoner who suddenly finds himself temporarily paroled, and with the promise of a commuted sen-

tence, if he can accomplish one task: he must persuade his estranged son Jesus (Ray Allen)—the #1 high school basketball player in America to sign with Big State, the Governor's alma mater.

Following the death of his mother, and with his father in jail, Jesus has had to raise himself and his younger sister. Now, just when he needs reliable guidance most, he's left alone to make the biggest decision of his life, to either accept one of the hundreds of college scholarship offers pouring in from around the country, or take the easy route and immediately begin a financially lucrative career with the National Basketball Association. With a deadline of only one week, his long-absent father unexpectedly returns home and must somehow reconcile with his son and induce him to accept Big State's offer. During the often explosive ensuing days, father and son reach a surprising turning point in their lives as they grow to understand and find respect for one another, in Spike Lee's compelling drama, Touchstone Pictures, "He Got Game."



Spike Lee directs his cast including Rosari Dawson (left) and NBA superstar Ray Allen (center)

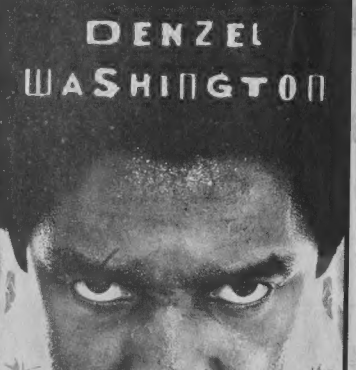
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Legal Notice

HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Notice of Availability of Grant Funds Community Care Allocation

Take notice that in compliance with N.J.A.C. 22-14-34.4, 34.5, and 34.6, the Division of Mental Health Services hereby announces the availability of the following grant program funds:

Name of Program: Outpatient Mental Health Services, Partial Care Services and Residential Services

Purpose: Funds are being made available to provide Outpatient (adults and children), Partial Care (adult) and Residential (adult) Services to residents with serious and persistent mental illness of Service Area 52 consisting of Brooklodge Boro, Pompton Lakes Boro, Ringwood Boro, Wanaque Boro, Wayne Township and West Milford Township in Passaic County.

Expected services should include but not be limited to individual, group and family therapy, psychiatric evaluation and assessment and medication monitoring.

Partial Care services should include but not be limited to counseling/case management services, psychoeducational services for client and families, vocational and educational services, social/recreational services, and psychiatric services.

Residential services should include but not be limited to twenty-four hour supervision of residents, assessment and evaluation, individual services coordination, training in daily living skills, residential counseling life skills services, and crisis intervention services.

Applicants may apply for all three programs or may propose to provide Outpatient and Partial Care services or residential services only. All services must meet applicable DHS and Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (Medicaid) regulations.

Amount of available funding for all programs: Anticipated funding of \$851,718 from DHS and Division of Medical Assistance may be available to support these services.

Organizations which may apply for funding under this program: Any incorporated agency which meets the qualifications of the Department Human Services as specified in the Contract Policy and Information Manual. Funding of this program may be obtained from the Division of Mental Health Services Regional Office at the time the application is requested.

Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding: Applicants must have the capacity to provide Outpatient, Partial Care, and/or Residential services necessary to assist adults and children with severe mental illness to maintain or enhance their level of functioning in the community. Residential services shall be for adults only. Services must be consistent with DHS and Medicaid regulations. Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to involve individuals in all aspects of the treatment planning and service delivery process.

Procedure for eligible organizations to apply: Interested applicants may obtain a Request for Proposal application by contacting the Division of Mental Health Services, Northern Region Office, 100 Hamilton Plaza, 8th Floor, Box 4, Hudson United Bank Building, Paterson, NJ (973) 977-5387. Address to which applications must be submitted:

Michelle Velazquez-Delany Regional Coordinator
Division of Mental Health Services
Northern Region Office
100 Hamilton Plaza, 8th Floor - Suite 800 - Pear
Hudson United Bank Building
Paterson, NJ 07651

Deadline by which applications must be submitted: by close of business (BPM) on Monday, April 27, 1998.

Date the applicant is to be notified of acceptance or rejection: Monday, May 15, 1998.

William Waldman, Commissioner
Department Human Services 3/15/98

\$210.00

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge Legal Services

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey is seeking proposals from attorneys or law firms to serve as the Authority's General Legal Counsel for the period commencing June 1, 1998 and terminating May 31, 1999. Proposals will be received using qualification factors with the corresponding relative weights.

Attorneys submitting proposals to the RFP must not be debarred, suspended or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any Federal, State or Local Agency.

The RFP may be obtained at the Administration Office, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ for a \$15 non-refundable deposit payable by certified check or money order only. SEALED PROPOSALS in response to this RFP (original and two copies) are due no later than 11:00 AM on April 29, 1998 and should be addressed as follows:

For the position of:
PRINCIPAL
For qualifications and requirements, call (973) 522-6998

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Vacancy Announcement

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Fax: (732) 685-1960

Law Offices of Lorraine K. Barnett
P.O. Box 1487
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PROPOSAL - LEGAL SERVICES

Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge
10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

The Woodbridge Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
\$67.60

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge Professional Fee Accountant / Consultant Services

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey will accept proposals for "Fee Accountant / Consultant Services" to include year end close out of the fiscal year 10/1/97 to 9/30/98 and budget preparation for the fiscal year 10/1/98 to 9/30/99. The scope of the Fee Accountant Services being requested will relate to all of the Housing Authority's programs (including, but not limited to, Public Housing, Section 8 Certificates and Vouchers, Comprehensive Grant Program, Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program).

The RFP may be obtained at the Administration Office, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ for a \$15 non-refundable deposit payable by certified check or money order only. SEALED PROPOSALS in response to this RFP (original and two copies) are due no later than 11:00 AM on April 29, 1998 and should be addressed as follows:

For the position of:
CONSULTANT SERVICES
FIRM CLOSE-OUT & FTR BUDGET
Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge
10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

The Woodbridge Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
\$72.80

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge Architectural and Engineering Services

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey is seeking a multi-disciplined Architectural and Engineering (A/E) firm to provide professional services for the implementation of work items included in 1998 & 1999 Comprehensive Grant Programs, Project Nos. NJ39P0370596 and NJ39P0370697 respectively.

The services desired are programming, preparation of bid documents, bidding assistance, and contract administration services. The work items consist of preparation of conceptual schemes for Authority approval, final design, bidding and construction phase services of the selected approach. The selected firm will be based on creativity and ability to develop cost effective solutions.

Interested A/E firms are invited to contact Mr. Peter Ansara, Executive Director, at (732) 634-2750 if there are questions on qualification level. The RFP may be obtained at the Administration Office, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ for a \$10 non-refundable deposit payable by certified check or money order only.

SEALED PROPOSALS in response to this RFP (original and two copies) are due no later than 11:00 AM on April 29, 1998 and should be addressed as follows:

For the position of:
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
1998 & 1999 Comprehensive Grant Program
Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge
10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

A pre bid conference will be held on April 22, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. at the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey.

Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
\$91.00

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF HOBOKEN

400 HARRISON STREET, HOBOKEN, NJ 07030
(201) 708-0370

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the City of Hoboken is seeking Responses for Proposals (1) original and (2) copies of qualified firms/individuals to conduct on site, contracted annual/unlimited security services for the Authority's high rise family and senior developments. Security Services Contract will be for a (6) month period. Firms submitting responses are required to have been in business a minimum of (5) years.

All proposals must include a detailed Statement of Qualifications which describes work of a similar nature, references, certificates, permits and resumes of principal individuals involved in delivery of services together with an experience and qualifications questionnaire containing details of the RFP. Copies of the RFP package may be picked up at 400 Harrison Street, Management Office.

Included in the Scope of Services should be:

-At least (5) references from past or current companies the agency provides security services for

-Proof of the firm's capability to provide adequate manpower

-Proof of the firm's capability to provide quality security services

-Description of uniforms and equipment to be used by security personnel

-Number of Vehicles and proof to ownership

-A Standard Operating Procedures Manual for Security Personnel

Please forward all inquiries to:

Mr. Alvin Steingold
Hoboken Housing Authority
400 Harrison Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030

*Deadline for RFPs is Thursday, April 30, 1998, no later than 1:00 p.m.

\$104.00

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Local Briefs

Union County Dems select election candidates

UNION — The Union County Democratic Organization unanimously named Sheriff Robert Forchich and three incumbent Freeholders, Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan, Lewis Mingo, Jr. and Mary P. Ruelo as its county ticket in the 1998 elections, it was announced by Charlotte DeFilippo, Union County Democratic Chairman.

"This is the team that will continue strong leadership for the people of Union County," said DeFilippo. "I was very pleased to see the overwhelming support our candidates received from the twenty-one Democratic Municipal Chairpersons. We are proud that our Democratic Party can offer the residents of Union County candidates of this caliber. Each of these individuals are bright, intelligent, hard working and have a clear vision for Union County's future."

Assets of credit repair company sought to repay customers

NEWARK (AP) — A credit repair company that officials believe was a ruse to have desperate customers purchase an "educational program" has been closed by a federal judge who said it was not taking enough legitimate money to keep operating.

The practices of National Credit Management Group, which also did business as "1-800-YES-CREDIT," elicited hundreds of complaints from around the country, officials said. U.S. District Judge Alfred J. Lauer Jr. will consider whether to liquidate the company's assets, mainly office supplies and computers, which would go toward repaying customers.

Campaign

Continued from page 1

tantly prevention. "Because once a child is lead poisoned, it's not temporary. It is for life," said the first term member of the council.

Other important works Crump points to include her founding the Newark Women's Conference, where she says claim 3,000 women have had the opportunity to address and discuss issues such as domestic violence, health, and grandparents having to raise their grandchildren.

Upon her election as Mayor, Mildred Crump would stop the continuation of children that are "poorly educated, mis-educated and under educated" with a Plan of Action to take back the school system by the year 2002. "I would establish an Office of Education within my administration," she said. "I truly believe that there will be no future for our children until we make education our number one priority. Until then, we won't have to worry about more jobs, we'll continue to have more jails."

She also has a definite strategy and a long list of plans for the economic development of the city which includes building a team of expert managers in the key areas of business development, cultivating a close business liaison between the small business and the corporation, and taking the broad focus on insuring that the global business community knows Newark is open for business.

The Councilwoman feels that the city's progress has been too slow. "Thirty years ago, our city was thrown back in time because of the riots. Compared to other cities who had the same experience, Newark has not been able to fully recover," she said. "Even as an elected official, I have not forgotten what it is to be a tax-paying resident who deserves the better government has to offer."

Ronald Rice is the first African-American Councilman representing the West Ward. Now in his fourth term, the long-time community activist is also a State Senator representing the 28th district encompassing three of the city's five wards and the township of Irvington.

This most important work as councilman has been to pass legislation that has benefited the taxpayers of the city. "Council members and senators can only pass laws and provide dollars, we cannot enforce or implement the programs without the cooperation of the mayor," he said. He claims that bills like the Urban Homestead Act have languished because of the mayor's inaction. "Rather than building 1,200 housing units when, in theory, the money could be used to rehabilitate housing in an entire ward."

In addition to fighting to get Newark its fair share of dollars from the state for senior citizen programs and leading the fight for charity care, other initiatives that are close to Senator Rice's heart as a former politician are those that have to do with code enforcement and criminal justice. "One good initiative that was a long-

Music competition honors one of Newark's finest

NEWARK — Thirty-four Newark teenage singers and musicians will participate April 24 in the first annual Connie Woodruff Music Prize, at Arts High School, 550 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Newark, N.J.

"The object of our jazz competition is to assure Newark's rightful place as a jazz center by identifying and providing a new generation of jazz musicians," said Françoise A. Washington, chairperson.

Washington is director emerita of

Visual and Performing Arts for the Newark Public Schools District which is hosting the event in cooperation with the sponsor, The Connie Woodruff Foundation.

During the Swing Era, Newark was a jazz mecca, producing such jazz legends as Sarah Vaughan, James Moody, and Babe Gonzalez.

Woodruff, a longtime community leader in Newark, died in October 1996. In her youth, she played jazz piano with the Barons of Rhythm at

Newark's South Side High School. The Barons produced saxophonist Ike Quebec and bebop composer/arranger Gil Fuller.

Winners of the April 24 student jazz competition will receive \$5,000 in cash and prizes including jazz jackets, given in Woodruff's name to perpetuate her interest in Newark youth.

The competition will start at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6. Tickets are \$10. For ticket information, call 973-325-3760.

Legislation introduced for school curricula on African Slave Trade atrocities

TRENTON — Assemblyman William D. Payne has introduced legislation that would establish a 21-member "Amistad Commission" to develop education and public-awareness programs about the history of slavery traditions of America and the post-slavery tri-

umphs of African-Americans.

The new state-wide commission also would be responsible for developing general public awareness programs about the history of racism in America, the efforts to eliminate and eradicate racism in our society, and the many noteworthy contributions African-Americans have made in building this country.

"It is vital that our schools and public institutions educate our children and all citizens about the full story of the African slave trade and the often heroic efforts of African-Americans who fought this brutal and dehumanizing activity," said Payne (D-Newark). "Everyone can benefit from knowing the real facts about the American slavery experience and the subsequent contributions that African-Americans made in the development of this society."

The Amistad Commission—

named in honor of a group of enslaved Africans who successfully gained their freedom by overthrowing the crew of the slave cargo ship Amistad and later had their case for freedom successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court — would have a broad range of responsibilities notably helping to develop improved education programs to teach public and private school children about the history of slavery in America.

"We're not seeking revisionism with this legislation, we're seeking accuracy about the totality of the history of slavery and African-Americans," said Payne.

The assemblyman is sponsoring the bill (A-1891) with Assembly Democratic Leader Pro-Tempore Joseph Charles Jr. (D-Jersey City), the chairman of the New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino Caucus.

Tribute to Congressman Donald M. Payne

NEWARK — Congressman Donald M. Payne, 107th District, New Jersey was honored at an annual congressional ball on at the Sheraton Meadowlands hotel in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Thomas P. Giblin, Chairman of the Essex County Democratic Committee, Senator Wynona Lipman, 20th District — NJ, William Lucy, Internal Secretary-Treasurer of AFSCME, Arthur F. Ryan, Prudential Chairman & CEO, and Theodore V. Wells, of the Lowenstein, Sandler Law Firm served as chairman for the event.

In addition to assisting in

fundraising efforts for his reelection campaign, the Congressional Ball celebrated Congressman Payne's ten years of distinguished service in the United States House of Representatives and his dedicated service to the community.

Congressman Payne was elected to the House of Representatives in 1988. He has served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, convened Congressional hearings in New Jersey on AIDS Prevention, "Boatload Babies" crisis, and the impact of incarceration on public health.

F. Lee Bailey: O.J. is modern-day Sam Sheppard

ATLANTIC CITY (AP)—O.J. Simpson lives his life under a cloud of suspicion because the media jump to conclusions about his role in the 1994 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, according to attorney F. Lee Bailey, one of his lawyers.

"The press committed to it a result, and when it didn't get it, said (the jury) was out of step," Bailey said Friday after a speech to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's New Jersey chapter.

Like Sam Sheppard, the Cleveland doctor convicted—and later acquitted—of killing his wife, Simpson has been smeared even though he is innocent, Bailey said.

"The press never apologized to Sam Sheppard and I don't expect them to apologize to O.J.," Bailey said.

Bailey, 64, gave a 70-minute address about the fine points of courtroom cross-examination. His tips: Watch the witness' eyes, don't always be combative and never give a witness more time to think than is absolutely necessary.

His greatest courtroom victory? Winning an acquittal for U.S. Army Capt. Ernest Medina, accused of murder in the My Lai massacre in Vietnam.

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